

# 1. Why Community Impact Assessment is Important

## Community Impact Assessment Is Important

Diverse neighborhoods are no longer confined to the areas of cities and towns that were accessible by rail or boat in the early 1900's. The 2000 Census tells us that diverse communities, with unique communications styles and social and economic relationships, are scattered throughout the nation. Using Community Impact Assessment is important to ensure that all the potentially impacted communities of a particular project are identified and that they are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the project planning process. This presentation by Robert Fuentes of the Brookings Institute describes some of the demographic changes that are occurring in the southwest.